

*Tactical*

6 May 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for Resource Management  
FROM: DCI  
SUBJECT: Support to Tactical Forces

1. Thanks for your memo on support to tactical forces. I have read the background paper. The number of things that are being done by OSD and ourselves is impressive. [redacted]

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2. I have three areas of interest:

a. Looking at tradeoffs between the various [redacted] collection systems themselves and between those systems and the national system, I have the feeling a great deal of duplication exists here and can be attributed to parochial interests of individual military services.

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b. It seems to me that rather than just having test exercises like POST OAK I and II, we should find ways to encourage operational commanders to utilize national systems more in the course of routine operations. Clearly I think of this in a naval environment more than others. There is hardly a time ships are at sea that they could not benefit by using national reconnaissance systems even if only for practice. Similarly, Army and Air Force units, I believe, could do the same in almost any peacetime exercise.

c. I believe that a very large measure of progress is how well the detailed requirements of the military commanders are thought out in advance. We should be getting to the point where they understand the systems enough that they can give us very specific guidance ahead of time. I'm quite concerned that the more we encourage the military commanders to use our system, the more we will get a plethora of ad hoc last-minute requirements. These will restrict the system and lead to

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charges that we were not adequately responsive. On the other hand, if we have time to anticipate such requirements we are much more likely to be able to include them. This goes back to our discussion the other day of contingency plans and encouraging an interface between we who manage the national systems and those in the military who write the plans which are premised on utilization of them.

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STANSFELD TURNER

cc: DDCI  
D/DCI/CT